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WILSON'S WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS.¹—The boys and girls of this day as regards natural history literature, are, compared with their grandfathers and grandmothers, highly favored. The best zoological artists and engravers and naturalists of distinction vie in setting forth in word and picture the wonders of the animal world, and in retailing for the benefit of the rising generation of naturalists the latest views and discoveries in biological science. The young will never cease to read with eagerness anecdotes about or to study pictures of animals. They do not want to shiver over pictures of skeletons, or get sleepy over dry anatomical descriptions. The interest in living animals, the human-like countenance of the monkey, the ferocity of the tiger, the lion standing over his victim, the giraffe with his painfully long neck, the giant, clumsy form of behemoth, the mammoth proportions of the elephant, the horse in motion, birds in flight, fish swimming and snakes gliding—it is living, moving nature which captivates the child's imagination, and lends the study of nature unceasing delight—hence, zoological writers are among the children's best and life-long friends, and the annual visit of menageries are white days in his calendar.

What a contrast are the zoological pictures and books of this day to those we were brought up upon! Compare Oliver Goldsmith's often apocryphal though pleasantly written natural history and Peter Parley's anecdotes of the animal kingdom, with the elaborate specimens of true art and faithfulness to nature, which the publishers of this day offer to the young. The child of three years, the urchin of ten summers, and the boy in his teens, all are offered books which for beauty of illustration and presswork are marvels of art.

An excellent example of what is excellent in artistic delineation of animals and in pleasant narration is Dr. Wilson's *Wild Animals and Birds*. The text is well and pleasantly written, and the latest authorities are cited or levied upon for material. Darwin and Wallace are often quoted; and Brehm's *Animal Life* and similar works are the sources of inspiration.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—*Annales du Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle de Belgique Série Paleontologique. Tome VII. Description des Ossements Fossiles des Environs d'Anvers.* Par M. P.-J. Van Beneden. Troisième partie. Cétacés. Brussels, 1882. From the author.

The New Zealand Journal of Science, Nov., 1882.

The Quarterly Journal of the Boston Zoological Society, Jan., 1883. From the society.

Scientific and Literary Gossip, Dec., 1882. S. E. Cassino, Boston. From the publisher.

Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, 1882, pp. 433-448. From H. C. Yarrow.

Preliminary Report upon the Princeton Scientific Expedition of 1882. From Professor A. Guyot.

¹ *Wild Animals and Birds: their Haunts and Habits.* By ANDREW WILSON. Illustrated. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., London, Paris, and New York, 1882. 4to, pp. 192. \$3.00.